



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

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(HELENA) --- UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 5.6%

(HELENA) --- Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.6% in January, up from the revised rate of 5.0% in December. Montana continues to be well below January's national average of 7.6%.

"The national recession continues to have an impact on Montana's unemployment rate," says Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "However, things will begin turning around once the money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act hits the ground here in Montana and we can help many individuals get back to work. In fact we're already helping displaced workers who began receiving their \$25 increase in weekly unemployment benefits through the Recovery and Reinvestment Act."

Seasonally-adjusted private payroll employment decreased by 2,000 jobs from December to January. The total number of Montanans who are working, including agricultural and self-employed workers, decreased by 6,038 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis.

The seasonally adjusted consumer price index (CPI-U) increased by 0.3% for January, a welcome movement following three straight months of price deflation. Inflation was led by an increase of 1.7% for energy prices, with food prices increasing marginally by 0.1% for the month. The index for all items excluding food and energy, also referred to as core inflation, increased by 0.2% for January.

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**Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

The February 2008 Labor Situation Report will be released on Friday, March 27, 2009.

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******

Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=205>

Monthly Montana industry employment information is available at:

<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>

Annual labor force data for Indian Reservations in Montana are available at:

www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121